

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

-- ~~This invention provides a~~^A method and associated device wherein an inverse histogram based pixel mapping step is combined with an edge enhancement step such as unsharp masking. In such an arrangement the inverse histogram based pixel mapping step improves the performance of the unsharp masking step, serving to ~~minimise~~^{minimize} the enhancement of noise components while desired signal components are sharpened. --